

THIS IS OUR FAITH!

5B. I BELIEVE IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH - SUPPLEMENT

TOUGH QUESTIONS FOR TODAY

Is the Church which Jesus founded the same as the Catholic Church?

Yes. The Catholic Church can claim an historical continuity through the Popes back to Peter and so to Jesus who chose Peter as the head of the Church.

However, the Church recognises much in common with other Christian communities.

Is it possible to be a Christian without going to Church - or being part of a Church?

Being Christian is not just a matter of belief or even a moral code - it means being a member of the Body of Christ.

Someone can't be a member of the Body of Christ yet not be linked with the other members of the Body. The life of the Christian is fed by the sacraments: you can't be a Catholic Christian and choose to be without them.

Isn't the Church wealthy, or corrupt, or opposed to the equality of women?

The Church is made up of human beings who have weaknesses, often fail, and are sometimes deceitful or corrupt. The Church is often affected by this. On the other hand, the Church has many enemies who will exploit or distort things to put the Church in a bad light.

Isn't the Church against Freedom of Speech and has executed people for disagreeing?

Everything in Christian History is not good, though usually it was the King or the State who acted against opponents of Christianity because it was thought they were undermining society. Religion - not just Christianity - has often been used by powerful people to justify wrong acts.

However, Catholic principles influenced the growth of the idea of Human Rights, and the Church has always supported and promoted the Declaration of Human Rights - for all people whatever their belief.